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January 14, 2005

To: Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attn: Art Unit 2653 - Christopher R. Magee

From: George O. Saile, Reg. No. 19,572

28 Davis Avenue

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., 12603

Subject: | Serial No.: 10/077,064 02/15/02 |

Min Li et al.

SYNTHETIC PATTERN EXCHANGE CONFIGURA-
TION FOR SIDE READING REDUCTION

|_Art Group: 2653 Christopher R. Magee_|

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This is in response to the Restriction or Election Requirement in the Office Action dated 12/20/04. In that Office Action, restriction was required to one of two stated

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 18, 2005.

Stephen B. Ackerman, Reg.# 37761

Signature/Date

SA 1/18/05

Inventions under 35 U.S.C. 121. The Inventions stated are Group I - Claims 1-44 to a synthetic, patterned, longitudinally exchange biased GMR sensor, classified in Class 360, subclass 324.12 and Group II-Claims 45-64 to a process, classified in Class 29, subclass 603.07.

Applicant provisionally elects to be examined the Invention described by the Examiner as Group II - Claims 45-64 drawn to a process classified in Class 29, subclass 603.07. This election is made with traverse of the requirement under 37 C.F.R.1.143 for the reasons given in the following paragraphs.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the Requirement for Restriction given in the Office Action. The Examiner gives the reason for the distinctness of the two inventions as (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different products or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP 806.05(f)). However, upon reading the product Claims against the process Claims one can readily see that the product Claims are directed to "a synthetic, patterned, longitudinally exchange biased GMR sensor with narrow effective trackwidth and reduced side reading" and the process Claims are directed to "a method for fabricating a synthetic, patterned, longitudinally exchange biased GMR sensor with narrow effective trackwidth", it is necessary to obtain

claims in both the product and method claim language. The method Claims necessarily use the product and vice versa. The field of search must necessarily cover both the method class/subclass 29/603.07 and products class 360/324.12 in addition to other related Classes and subclasses to provide a complete and adequate search. The fields of search for the Group I and Group II inventions are clearly and necessarily co-extensive. The Examiner's suggestion that "In the instant case, the product as claimed in Group I can be made by another and materially different process, such as one that does not require "annealing the resulting structure with a first anneal", "annealing the resulting structure with a second anneal", "removing, by an etching process, a central portion of said conductive lead layer", "oxidizing the exposed portion of said ferromagnetic longitudinal biasing layer", etc., as required by Group II", is very speculative and really has nothing to do with the Claims as presented in this Patent Application. Further, it is respectfully suggested that these reasons are insufficient to place the additional cost of a second Patent Application upon the Applicants. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw this restriction requirement for these reasons.

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Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement and the
Allowance of the present Patent Application is requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SBA", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen B. Ackerman, Reg. #37761